



# Safe Harbor News

## New NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Biologist

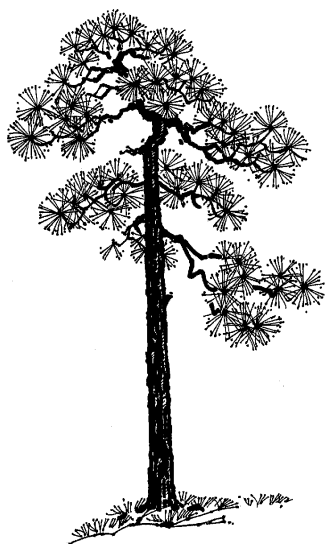
Often a measure of any program's success is that demand often outstrips available resources. Such is the case with the Fish and Wildlife Service's North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program. Due to its overwhelming popularity among landowners, I felt that this program needed a dedicated full-time biologist to keep up with the growing number of landowner agreements and to maintain a high level of customer service. In November 1999, Susan Miller joined the staff of the North Carolina Sandhills Field Station as the new Safe Harbor Biologist. Formerly employed by the Fort Bragg Endangered Species Branch, Susan has over 7 years of field experience working with red-cockaded woodpeckers in the North Carolina Sandhills. As the NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Biologist, Susan is responsible for implementing and monitoring Safe Harbor landowner agreements as well as monitoring the status of red-cockaded woodpecker groups on Safe Harbor properties. Some of you may have already met Susan. Those who haven't will have the opportunity to visit with her during your upcoming annual compliance reviews scheduled for this fall.

Peter Campbell  
NC Sandhills Recovery Coordinator

## Introducing the Safe Harbor Newsletter

**Introducing Safe Harbor News.** This newsletter is provided to keep you informed about the North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program as well as other programs available to landowners in the Sandhills. We anticipate sending out newsletters biannually.

**This is your newsletter, please let us know what kind of information you would like to see here.**



**Safe Harbor  
Agreements  
48 Landowners  
34,603 acres**

## Safe Harbor Update and Upcoming Compliance Visits from Susan



Since its inception in 1995, the North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program has continued to grow in popularity with landowners. To date, we have enrolled 48 landowners with approximately 34,603 acres. Probably the greatest measure of the success of our program was documented in 1999 when we verified the existence of two new "safe harbor" groups in the Sandhills. One of these new "safe harbor" groups was the result of volunteer activities by a landowner. Mr. Tony Creed agreed to the creation of a new cluster site on his property when he enrolled in the Safe Harbor Program in 1996. We are very excited about the success of this program and hope to document many more new groups in the coming years.

I want to take a moment to let you know that in the coming months I will be contacting you to set up a safe harbor "compliance" meeting. This meeting is simply an opportunity to discuss any baseline responsibilities as listed in your original agreement as well as a chance to document voluntary actions that you have completed throughout the calendar year. This is also an occasion for me to meet those of you whom I haven't met and become more familiar with your property. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [susan\\_miller@fws.gov](mailto:susan_miller@fws.gov) or (910) 695-3323.

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
NORTH CAROLINA SANDHILLS FIELD STATION**



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## **Landowner Assistance Programs**

**Each issue of Safe Harbor News we will showcase a program of interest to landowners in the Sandhills.**

### **The Forest Legacy Program**

The Forest Legacy Program was created by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill. Its purpose is to help landowners, state and local governments, and private land trusts identify and protect environmentally important forest lands that are threatened by present and future conversion to non-forest uses. The Forest Legacy Program is designed to assure that both traditional uses of private lands and the public values of America's forest resources are protected for future generations.

The most important part of Forest Legacy is the private landowner who wants to conserve the special values of her/his land for future generations. Owners can do this in trust with the State government and receive a fair price for the commitment. Willing owners who are accepted into the program can sell the right to develop the land, to the state government. The government will pay for these rights at full fair market value. The owner keeps any remaining property rights and usually continues to live on and work /manage the property. Property taxes are paid by the owner on any retained rights as determined by local assessors.

The Sandhills and Uwharrie Forest Legacy Area includes all of Lee, Montgomery, Moore and Richmond counties and parts of Chatham, Cumberland, Davidson, Harnett, Hoke, Randolph, and Scotland counties. For more information contact:

Mark Megalos, Forest Stewardship Coordinator  
N.C. Division of Forest Resources

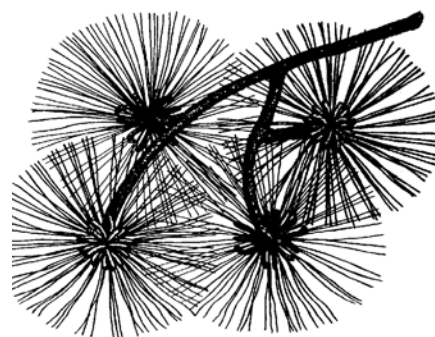
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### **Prescribed Fire Research Project**

Mark Knott, a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill, is currently looking for landowners/managers that manage 1000 or more acres of longleaf pine for his research project. Many of you that are enrolled in the NC Sandhills Safe Harbor Program with large tracts of land will be contacted by him to participate in a questionnaire about prescribed burning.

If you know of any other landowners that manage large tracts of longleaf they can contact Mark at (919) 969-9629 or e-mail him at: [mdknott@email.unc.edu](mailto:mdknott@email.unc.edu).